## We claim:

1. A telecom test device for connecting to a telephone line carrying an information stream, the device comprising:

a measurement system connected to the device, wherein the measurement system can make a determination of a minimum period from the information stream;

a first circuit for determining a transmission technology from the minimum period; and

a second circuit for selectively connecting the device to the telephone line in response to the determination of the transmission technology.

- 2. The test device of claim 1 wherein first and second circuits include portions of a programmed microcontroller.
  - 3. The test device of claim 1 further comprising: means for externally indicating a type of information stream.
- 4. The test device of claim 1 wherein the measurement system includes a register for taking a digital snapshot of the information stream.
- 5. The test device of claim 1 wherein the second circuit selectively prevents data of only a predetermined data rate.
- 6. The test device of claim 3 further comprising: an audio output device for externally indicating the transmission technology.

- 7. The test device of claim 3 further comprising:
  a visual output device for externally indicating the transmission technology.
- 8. The test device of claim 3 further comprising:
  a digital output device for externally indicating the transmission technology.
  - 9. The test device of claim 1 further comprising: a manual override for temporarily disabling the second circuit.
- 10. A software program for use by a telephone test device for connecting to a telephone line carrying an information stream, the device including a measurement system for making a determination of a minimum period from the information stream, the software program comprising instructions for:

converting the minimum period into a transmission rate measurement; determining a transmission technology from the transmission rate measurement;

comparing the transmission technology with a set of rules; selectively connecting the analysis device to the telephone line according to the rules.

11. The software program of claim 10 further comprising instructions for:

externally indicating the transmission type.

12. A method for determining a data transmission technology on a transmission medium, the method comprising:

receiving a high-rate synchronization signal for providing a plurality of period increments, the high-rate being greater than or equal to a minimum pulse for data on the transmission medium;

counting the period increments from the high-rate synchronization signal during a pulse of data on the transmission medium;

determining the data transmission technology from the counted period increments.

13. The method of claim 12 further comprising:

counting the period increments from the high-rate synchronization signal during another pulse of data on the transmission medium; and

comparing the period increments counted from both pulses of data on the transmission medium to determine a minimum period increment.

- 14. The method of claim 13 wherein the two pulses occur in a single period.
- 15. The method of claim 13 wherein the two pulses are of the same polarity (positive or negative) in two consecutive periods.
- 16. The method of claim 12 further comprising: providing an indication of the transmission technology to a telecom test set.
- 17. The method of claim 12 wherein the period increments are determined by a transition in the high-rate synchronization signal.

- 18. The method of claim 12 wherein the period increments indicate a positive transition in the high-rate synchronization signal.
- 19. The method of claim 12 further comprising:
  counting the period increments from the high-rate synchronization
  signal during another pulse of data on the transmission medium; and
  determining the data transmission technology from the counted period
  increments from both pulses.